

AVP Australia

1999 National Gathering

Report

CONTENTS

I	Introduction	1
II	Summary of recommendations	2
III	Summary of agreed actions	3
IV	National Gathering Agendas	6
V	Community building - transcription of session posters	8
VI	Planning of Business sessions - transcription of session posters	10
VII	Business session preparation - transcription of session posters	12
VIII	Business sessions Decisions/Recommendations - transcription of session posters	13
	1. Function	13
	2. Structure/Framework	14
	3. Communication	18
	4. State reports	23
	5. Training	24
	6. Funding, sponsorship and promotion	25
	7. National identity	26
IX	Helpful hints	27
X	National Gathering evaluation	29

Appendices

1	National Gathering Agreements
2	Forming a National Organisation from AVP Tasmania
3	AVP-Victoria Report - 1998
4	AVPQ Report for National Gathering
5	AVP (NSW) Report of Activities for April 1998 - March 1999
6	AVP WA Annual Report of the Chair February 1999
7	AVP SA Report of Activities for 1998
8	Contact details for AVP Australia affiliate and local groups
9	Contact details for 1999 National Gathering participants
10	HIP workshop agenda
11	HIP keys handout
12	The welcome

I INTRODUCTION

Each year from 1994 the autonomous Australian state AVP groups have meet for training, an exchange of ideas and experiences and for support. These gatherings have evolved into an annual National Gathering. In 1998 at the 5th National Gathering a co-operative national AVP Australia was "adopted in principle subject to ratification by the State bodies" (see Appendix 1: 1998 National Gathering Agreements). The recommendations were distributed to the various affiliate state groups for consultation.

At the 1999 National Gathering the decisions of the 1998 Gathering were reviewed and further developed. The process consisted of :

1. Brainstorms and discussions on the process and what the members of the group wanted to achieve
2. Agenda setting for the business sessions
3. Review of the 1998 National Gathering decisions
4. Review of the various state responses
5. Issues were explored under the following headings:
 - Functions
 - Framework/structure
 - Communication
 - Fund raising and promotion
 - Training
 - The next and future national gatherings
6. Where there was consensus the decisions were recorded as recommendations. Where consensus was not reached the issues are documented for future consideration and consultation with affiliate groups
7. A Care Bear Group comprising representatives from each state was established to facilitate the information dissemination and consensus decision making process between the national gatherings. They will provide help, facilitation, guidance, support and care.
8. Also seven working groups were established to facilitate the investigation of issues and develop recommendations to bring to the 2000 National Gathering. AVP facilitators in Australia are invited to join any of these working groups.

All the decisions and brainstorms were transcribed from the butchers paper posters that were produced in the Friday, Saturday and Sunday business sessions. The scribes were Katherine S (NSW) and Margaret (Qld).

Other materials from the National Gathering such as the agendas, brainstorms of helpful hints, list of participants, evaluation notes and summaries of the main recommendations and agreed actions have been included in this report by Katherine S (NSW). Copies of this report will be distributed to each affiliate and local AVP group in Australia.

The recommendations have been made for affiliate groups to discuss and ratify. Each group is asked to return their responses at or before the next National Gathering.

- 1 -

AVP AUSTRALIA - 1999 NATIONAL GATHERING

COMMUNITY BUILDING - Thurs 8th April

The 1999 National Gathering started on the evening of Thursday 8th April at The Grange, Mt. Victoria, NSW. During the process of building community three decisions were reached after discussion.

1 Ground rules:

- Go with the flow (trust the facilitators)
- Avoid holding up the process for minor details
- Make use of the ombudsmen/listening post/Care Bears
- No putdowns / use build ups
- Volunteer yourself
- Confidentiality
 - . No names
 - . Speak generally/anonymously
 - . Use I statements
- Right to pass
- Share voice space
- Be punctual
- Allow myself to have fun

2 Drugs and alcohol (behaviour altering substances):

It was stressed that these substances discourage performance and impair behaviour and can prevent the respecting of the journey of others. We agreed that the intake of any substance that could cause the taker not to respect the journey of others or impede the journey of others should not be at National Gatherings. Giri (WA) told a story about an incident in India and the moral was 'Your freedom ends where my nose begins.'

3 Care Bears:

There would be a group of volunteers, one from each state to take on the role of group facilitation and group maintenance. This position was created at the 1998 National Gathering and was so successful that it was decided to continue and extend it. The agreed upon role was broken into 2 parts: care bear and task facilitator/master.

a. The role of the Care Bears includes:

- pastoral care
- silent witness
- mediation
- personal needs of group

- sounding board
 - greeting new people
 - . settling them in
 - . group agreements
 - liaison between people at the Conference
 - vibes monitor
- b. The role of the task facilitator/master includes:
- set agendas
 - organise who will facilitate
 - watch vibes
 - time
 - light and livelies, gatherings, closure
 - to ensure that decisions are made and recorded
 - to make sure that we stay on track

While the Care Bears are responsible for the process, the group is responsible for making it all work.

BUSINESS SESSIONS

This is the record of the business sessions of the sixth AVP National Gathering in Australia. There was one session on the evening of Friday 9th April, three sessions all day and evening on Saturday 10th and two sessions on Sunday 11th ending at 3.30pm. The main focus of the business sessions was Stage 2 of the development of AVP-Australia.

This document is transcribed from the butchers paper posters that have been taken from the business sessions of Saturday and Sunday. The scribes were Katherine S (NSW) and Margaret (Qld).

AGENDA DEVELOPMENT

On Friday afternoon the members of the National Gathering were asked to write up what they felt they would like as agenda ideas for the Saturday 10th April and Sunday 11th April business sessions.

The resulting list of agenda items was:

- seeking permission to hold National Gatherings on Aboriginal land
- national AVP insurance (is this cheaper?)
- newsletter - print, e-mail or both
- register of Australian facilitators
- exchange of facilitators
- clearinghouse/egroups/communication
- confidentiality of minutes and distribution
- AVP Australia - agreement between groups on a formal constitution
- a national "deepening" [advanced] facilitator training + funds for this
- national incorporation + care bears/state reps

- prisons, schools and other issues of interest eg. training, leadership, selection - small group discussions
- working groups eg. sponsorship, the next National Gathering, fundraising, manuals & selling
- Australian Violence Prevention Awards
- promotion
- mutual support/Pendle Hill pamphlets, manuals, videos, keyrings, library/archives (supply and stocking)
- National Gathering report
- developing AVP-Australia

Two small groups were formed to craft these suggestions into possible agendas. The two possible agendas were compared and found to be very similar. The agenda was agreed upon and 12 hours allocated to complete the agenda:

- I. Developing AVP-Australia - time allocated 5 hours, facilitator Roger (WA)
framework/structure
functions
- II. Communication - time allocated 2 hours, facilitator Susi (Vic)
- III. State reports - time allocated 2 hours, facilitator Giri (WA)
- IV. Next and future national gatherings - time allocated 1 hour, facilitator John (WA)
- V. Fund raising/promotion - time allocated 1 hour, facilitator Charlotte (NSW)
- VI. Training - time allocated 1 hour, facilitator Graeme (NSW)
- VII. Interest groups (prisons, schools, other) - time allocated 2 hours, facilitator Laurel (NSW)

Gathering:

On Friday night the process began with the gathering: What is one thing I would like to come out of this weekend?

This is a record of the gathering:

- to see the immense work of David and the working party come to fruition
- all the states working together more closely
- the recording of details and working together more closely
- working closer together and working on the communication
- a clear sense of what a national organisation can do to strengthen and support AVP
- work out how to establish functional support + interaction
- agreement on the minimum specifics of AVP Australia
- something tangible
- more ideas on how to put AVP stuff into practice when creating community - an exploration
- tangible and operational
- foundations of AVP-Australia, communications, decisions, etc.
- a clarity and simplicity of the practicality of AVP-Australia

I DEVELOPING AVP-AUSTRALIA - FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE

I.1 Gathering

Saturday morning started with the Care Bears facilitating the gathering: What's one thing I feel that AVP-Australia can offer AVP.

This gathering was partially recorded:

- cross pollination, support which is greater than the "littleness" of the AVP states which falter at times
- creating an ongoing "sustainable" community, we are creating something that is unique
- a network of diverse groups can provide enrichment
- a national body is more likely to impact the wider community
- together we have more collective wisdom
- to be responsive rather than reactive (added by Lou)

The facilitation of the session was handed over to Roger (WA).

I.2 1998 DECISIONS

David's report from last year containing the recommendations reached by the 1998 National Gathering was read. Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions and to clarify. The group was asked which order they wished to address the items. The group's decision was: the functions, followed by the structure/framework, followed by the coordination group (Care Bears).

Each state/affiliate representative was asked to report back on their state's position with regard to this report. If they were not representing their state they were asked to give a personal opinion and to state that this was a personal opinion.

State feedback

I.2.1 Victoria:

communication - a designated person for electronic communication where possible
a rotating clearinghouse amongst affiliate groups
who will decide what the spirit of AVP is and when it is not being upheld

I.2.2 Queensland:

the concept was fine
there was not enough detail
the individual members of AVP-Q were asked to complete the questionnaire and return it to David, as it was felt that it was a decision for the members to make.

I.2.3 NSW:

basically agreed
there were some concerns
agreed that decisions need to be ratified by affiliated groups

I.2.4 Tasmania:

ratified
there is a need to prevent the creation of a 'power cartel'

eg. rotation of positions and equality of representation.

I.2.5 John (WA), not on behalf of the affiliate:
saw many problems in the document.

I.3 FUNCTION

It was decided that this National Gathering would make decisions that are recommendations for state groups to discuss and ratify. State groups are asked to return their responses on or before the next National Gathering.

The list of decisions/recommendations:

I.3.1 Current positions:

Things in force will remain in force unless/until changed eg. the newsletter editor

I.3.2 National register of current facilitators - partial agreement was reached that:

- this would be a voluntary list
- there would be a central list
- this would be held at a central point
- this position would be held by a state contact
- this position would be rotated
- the first volunteer is John (WA)
- there is access by state, national, international bona fide AVPers only
- just yes or no access (no additional information to be given)

Consensus was not reached. So this item will be revisited before implementation. This agenda item would be revisited if time permits.

I.3.3 Intervisitation of facilitators:

The decision was to encourage intervisitation. A working group was set up to examine how this could be put into practice and to bring recommendations back to the National Gathering. *The co-ordinator for this working group is Susi (Vic).*

I.3.4 Funding:

This was considered a function of AVP-Australia. Issues raised were:

- who would hold the funds
- sources of funds
- the purpose for the funds

This was agreed on in principle. A working group was established to examine how this could be put into practice and to bring recommendations back to the National Gathering. *The co-ordinator for this working group is Giri (WA)*

I.3.5 Manuals and other resources:

Decisions were reached in three areas:

I.3.5.1 Management and resource register

- **there will be a national list of AVP resources in Australia**
- **this list will be held at a central point**
- **some stocks of resources will be held**
- **this position will initially *be held by Malcolm (NSW)* and could be rotated between states.**

I.3.5.2 Selling of manuals

Agreement was reached that the manuals would be sold to those who request it even though they are not AVP facilitators. This refers to the US manuals not the additional Australian materials because of copyright issues

The conditions of the sale are that:

- the manuals will not be marketed or promoted
- the price will be at least the current US price
- each affiliate will be given the option whether to sell the manuals
- the HIP manual will be included in this if the copyright allows this - *Action Malcolm (NSW)*

I.3.5.3 Manual additions

A working group was formed to co-ordinate the development of Australian manual additions. *The co-ordinator of the working group is Katherine S (NSW)*

I.3.6 International contact:

John (WA) will be the contact for the International AVP directory and organise the entry for the International AVP Web page directory.

I.4 STRUCTURE/Framework

I.4.1 The membership/ownership of AVP Australia are the affiliates of AVP Australia, affiliates currently equate to states. Currently there are six states.

I.4.2 Some work was done on objectives and power but further work and decisions have been deferred

The work that was done:

I.4.2.1 Objectives:

- **facilitate co-operation between AVP Australia and the affiliates**
- **to protect the name, core principles, key materials and spirit of AVP**

I.4.2.2 Powers:

- **affiliation and disaffiliation of AVP groups**
- **represent AVP at a national level eg. seek funds at a national level**

I.4.3 Meets normally once a year at the National Gathering

I.4.4 Registration and incorporation

The decision was that we did not have enough legal information to proceed. A working group was formed to formulate questions, to seek information and to report back to the next National Gathering. *The working group will consist of John (WA), Margaret (Qld), and Malcolm (NSW) with an invitation to David (Tas) and Ray (Vic). John (WA) is the provisional co-ordinator*

I.4.5 Definition of what constitutes AVP-Australia

That it is AVP groups, HIP and other officially recognised derivative programs

I.4.6 Care Bears

I.4.6.1 The model agreed upon for the Care Bear role is as follows:

- **to facilitate communication eg.**
 - . dissemination of information to the affiliated bodies**
 - . the sharing of resources and ideas**
 - . as a sounding board to explore ideas and the exchange of ideas**
 - . to support the newsletter**
- **to facilitate intervisitation and training**
- **to support and liaise with different working parties eg. funding and resource sharing**
- **to report back to the National Gathering eg. issues that have been brought up during the year and proposals**
- **to highlight and identify issues which could be discussed further (at National Gathering, egroups and working groups) eg. different practices in state**
- **resolving conflict**
- **to be supportive in exploring and identifying ways of resolving conflicts in the AVP community when needed**

I.4.6.2 The structure approved for the Care Bears in their ombudsmen role is as follows:

A person/group has a problem

>>>>>>

Consult their affiliate group first

if this does not work

>>>>>>

Consult a Care Bear
The Care Bear would give personal
support to facilitate the problem

If this does not work or the contacted
Care Bear needs more support

>>>>>>

The Care Bear would facilitate contact
with other care bears. They would facilitate
the problem using methods such as

- . least to most intrusive
- . go to the source of the problem

I.4.6.3 How care bears carry out their role

- via regular communication
- that is suitable to the people who are involved

I.4.6.4 How often do care bears contact each other

- by email as often as they want
- at least quarterly by telephone

I.4.6.5 Who are going to be the care bears?

- **the proviso is: affiliates have the right and/or responsibility to have a representative. Any state can nominate someone from another state to represent them.**
- **one person from each affiliate will make up the core group**
- **it is not necessarily the state co-ordinator or state contact**
- **this person is nominated by each affiliated body. Any state can nominate someone from another state to represent them**
- **this group will be as open as possible but will consider:**
 - . practical issues
 - . issues of confidentiality
- **the affiliated body's representative on the group can change during the year eg. the person nominated at this National Gathering could remain or be replaced by the state nominee.**

I.4.6.6 In summary the Care Bear Group will:

- **be like a Council of Elders**
- **have of a representative from each affiliate**
- **be in regular contact**
- **encourage and support the AVP community**
- **be chosen by the AVP consensus decision-making model**
- **have an awareness of and advise on AVP core values**

A care bear does not make decisions but provides help, facilitation, guidance, support and care.

I.4.6.7 The second decision made concerning the Care Bear role was that:

- **a caretaking Care Bear volunteered from each state**
- **these caretaker Care Bears will return to their state and report on the process.**
- **this caretaker Care Bear would hold the position until the state decides who would be the Care Bear for the year.**

The caretaker Care Bears are Margaret (Qld), Charlotte (NSW), Susi (Vic) and Giri (WA).

The Care Bears will organise the contact with the two states without representation at the National Gathering and give them information about: who the Care Bears are, what the role is and ask them to nominate a Care Bear to represent their state.

When the Care Bears for the year are nominated, the Care Bears will distribute a list of the 1999 Care Bears with contact details to all state groups for distribution to all AVP facilitators in Australia.

I.5 DECISION-MAKING

It was agreed that the ultimate decision-making bodies are the affiliates.

Affiliation and disaffiliation - more work needs to be done on what would happen if there is the need to disaffiliate a group.

Decisions between National Gatherings - if all affiliates agree via consensus to a proposal it is accepted. This will be facilitated by the Care Bears

II COMMUNICATION

The agenda for the communication session was:

- Why - with the gathering: Why communication is important for AVP-Australia
- What - what sort of things we want to communicate
- Between whom
- How - email, newsletter, letter, phone, web page, clearinghouse
- How is it to be done - who will do it and when
- Issues: - confidentiality, reliability, time to process and other

II.1 The record of the Gathering: Why communication is important for AVP-Australia

- breaks down the isolation and feeling that you have to do it on your own
- a way of experiencing how others handle situations on a regular basis
- expands the vision of what AVP can be by sharing experiences, seeing other people's difficulties
- a regular way to keep in touch with friends in AVP
- cannot build community without communication - but communication isn't just words
- communication is part of inclusion eg. not to communicate is a way of excluding, disempowering
- the process of communicating must be appropriate making real connections where the intention is to include
- one of the basic building blocks
- exposure to other states challenge and create personal growth
- I have seen how communication can bring us closer, break barriers etc.
- it builds community and we learn from the experience of others

- it is a reality check - communication creates reality

II.2 What sort of things do we want to communicate

Ideas were gained by using a brainstorm. The results were:

- our experiences, inspirational stories
- our activities eg. organisational, workshops, struggles
- failures and achievements
- new ideas
- notification of conferences, seminars
- places to get funding
- discussions about issues
- publicity ideas
- minutes circulation
- our differences
- details about the National Gathering
- new exercises
- logistics about events - what, where, when
- good media stuff - stories on the news etc.
- being able to inform each other about non-AVP events of interest eg. SBS programs etc.
- requests for volunteers
- information that is needed for decision-making
- skills that we can contribute
- requests for help
- what AVP is as part of promotion
- creative conflict
- calendar of events
- workshop reports
- reviews of resources eg. books, videos
- good web sites
- addition to libraries
- AVP news from around the world.
- where to get resources
- sharing future visions not just within AVP
- feedback from participants
- easy access information for the public
- resolve conflicts
- news of facilitators
- circulating draft documents for feedback
- put out notices
- distribution of information about discussion at the National Gathering reporting on events
- updating records and contacts

II.3 Between whom does the communication at the national level occur:

- one to one communication between facilitators
- communication to inmate facilitators and HIP facilitators
- members of the public and friends of AVP when we are promoting AVP

- the centres of influence eg. politicians, people running youth centres, church networks, philanthropic groups
- liaison between Care Bears
- communication between state contacts
- prisons and schools
- working parties - within the working parties and from them to AVP-Australia
- people like Bo Lozoff
- liaison with overseas groups eg facilitators who might come to Australia

II.4 How we communicate

II.4.1 Newsletter

- please send John (WA) reports - articles etc. John likes articles between 1/2 and 1 A4 sheet
- with regards to distribution each affiliate decides who to send it to
- copies should be lodged with the National Library as the National Library has an archival role to preserve a documentation of newsletters for the community
- the newsletter is to continue regardless of what happens with electronic communication

II.4.2 Electronic communication:

E-group	Purpose
1 AVP-L	Discussion of facilitation issues
2 AVP-N	
3 AVP-NL	
4 AVP-News	
5 AVP-AU	
6 AVP-AUL	

II.4.2.1 Electronic communication decisions:

- *affiliates will decide how information disseminated electronically is to be disseminated amongst its members who don't have Internet*
- *we encourage Malcolm and Katherine S (NSW) to create AVP-A and AVP-AL*
- **these are e-groups that will be available to all AVP facilitators**
- **AVP-News is ready and all affiliates are invited to use it - contact Malcolm (NSW)**
- **we recognise that there are issues around access and equity and that computer literacy could be defined by wealth and access to electronic communication**
- **AVP is about social justice and thus needs to consider these issues in any discussions about electronic communication**
- *it was agreed that it was a good idea to have a home page for AVP-Australia. Terry (Qld) and Malcolm (NSW) will look into doing this*

II.4.3 Clearinghouse:

- it was not necessary at this time to have a clearinghouse as electronic communication channels and the Care Bears will provide the information dissemination

II.4.4 Confidentiality:

- AVP guidelines should be followed and as a general principle use non identifiable information eg. first name only
- AVP electronic records will be backed up before the millennium bug danger dates

II.4.5 Other communication channels (summary)

- person to person communication at the National Gathering
- telephone eg. rotating mobiles for AVP-Australia and rotating SIM cards, everyone on Optus because it is free between Optus users from 8.30 to midnight for the first 20 minutes.
- pen pals
- making available a list of phone numbers of those who volunteer to be on it
- teleconferencing
- affiliate reports
- more intervisitation of facilitators

II.5 Concerns about communication channels:

This summary was compiled at the session from the following brainstorm of concerns about forms of communication:

- we should explore other ways of communication eg voice and personal contact these are important in building community
- the contact person for the affiliate can be seen as a spokesperson or representative of the organisation
- we should think of our future AVPers and those we have left behind who are not computer literate or on email
- these issues can arise with the telephone/different technologies have different compatibilities
- STD can be a problem and an expense
- always a new technology brings fears - it is how we face those fears that is important
- there is an issue of building community
- what is convenient to the sender may not be convenient to the receiver
- the affiliates present at the National Gathering want to ensure that our concerns about communication be recorded and monitored constantly especially by the Care Bears.

II.6 Concerns about communication channels - decisions:

- ***Care Bears to check with all AVPers about how they feel the communication channels are working for them.***
- ***Care Bears to be proactive about getting feedback from those who have expressed concern about technology, equity etc.***
- ***That Julei from NSW will put details of mobile phone (SIM card) into the newsletter***
- ***That a working party is formed to support Malcolm and Katherine S (NSW) with communication. This working party will also look at the issues of confidentiality, reliability and time to process. This working party is called Communication - nuts and bolts. The initial members of the working party consist of Julei (NSW), John (WA), Jacqui (Vic), Terry (Qld), Malcolm and Katherine S (NSW)***

III STATE REPORTS:

(These reports in their entirety will be circulated)

Reports were presented at this National Gathering were: NSW, Qld, WA and Vic.

Some issues that were shared by the states in the discussion following the presentation of the reports were:

III.1 NSW:

- domestic violence and gender issues that come up in workshops. Especially if the survivor and the perpetrator are in the group
- the local groups are contributing money to AVP(NSW) to support the prison program and central expenses
- NSW seeks diversity in workshop groups and avoids homogeneity
- there is a grey area between promoting AVP to the prison system and advocating prison reform
- skilful facilitation can enable a very small workshop of 5 or 6 participants to have a successful outcome

III.2 Qld:

- Queensland had decided to go with the model of lead facilitators and therefore their current number of lead facilitators was affecting the number of workshops that they could run in the community and the prisons.
- There was discussion on the details on AVP-Qld's fund raising project of T-shirt transfers

III. 3 WA:

- getting numbers for community workshops - it has been found that if you cancel workshops because of low numbers of participants the people who are initially interested seldom participate in later workshops
- one solution that has been tried is to go ahead with small workshops and this has been successful
- the turnover in prisons means that inmate facilitators are lost
- there are two distinct groups of facilitators the community facilitators and the prison inmate facilitators. There is little cross fertilisation because the workshops are held at different times of the week
- the National Gathering decided to support John and Giri's application to QSA for funds for Australian AVP facilitators to travel to India for AVP workshops

III.4 Vic:

- there was discussion about AVP-Vic not being able to conduct workshops in Loddon Prison at present. A letter from a Loddon inmate facilitator was read to the National Gathering. It supported AVP-Vic and thanked the facilitators for their dedication and impact on his life.
- Victoria asked if the affiliates at the National Gathering would be willing to sign a letter that would be sent to the Loddon Prison inmate facilitators

III.5 Further suggestion:

Graeme (NSW) suggested that a *letter be drafted that could be sent to all inmate facilitators around Australia*. This letter of appreciation for all the work that they do will be distributed by the local affiliates. All the affiliates present agreed to this action

IV TRAINING

There was a brainstorm on AVP Australia training needs. After this brainstorm ***a working party was formed to further investigate training and to report back to the next National Gathering. The initial members of this open working party are: Julei (NSW), Susi (Vic) and Jacqui (Vic)***

The results of the brainstorm were:

- roving trainer(s) for advanced training for AVP facilitators
- sharing information about facilitator workshops
- training night once a month
- training nights where the manual is walked through and new exercises are done
- annual manual review of new exercises
- funding people to come to training
- facilitators to be participants interstate
- length of training? 1/2 day, full day, series of short sessions
- training is nurturing
- that AVP-Australia organise regular training eg on Myer-Briggs
- training at the National Gathering
- what are training priorities?
- form a working party to look at training priorities
- how to deal with difficult participants and facilitators
- practical training on working with kids
- work interstate as part of training of facilitators

V FUNDING, SPONSORSHIP AND PROMOTION

The brainstorm on sources of funding was recorded to help individual states investigate different sources. The sharing of information was encouraged. The name of the person who put forward the idea has been record against the idea. *Graeme (NSW) has volunteered to read draft submissions from any affiliate for funding.*

The results of the brainstorm:

V.1 State Funding:

- 'The directory of philanthropy' - [Graeme - NSW] will circulate the latest information
- local councils - [Scott - NSW]
- Canberra received sponsorship for 2 young friends to attend the National Gathering from the Quaker Thanksgiving Fund - [Katherine S - NSW]

- Sydney Regional Meeting gave money for the National Gathering - [Katherine S - NSW]
- state lotteries, casino funds - can apply for photocopiers or filing cabinets - [Margaret - Qld]
- Giri quoted an Indian saying "money given by dogs neither barks or bites."
- Dept of Community Services, Care and Protection - may have money available - [Graeme - NSW]
- other groups may apply to run an AVP workshop for their organisation - [Graeme - NSW]
- funding for disadvantaged groups to run workshops - this will vary from state to state eg. for ethnic groups - [Scott - NSW]
- Office of Multicultural Interest could provide funds - [Giri - WA]
- Ministry of Justice - [Roger - WA]
- Crime Prevention is 'in' so Attorney General's Dept, or others, could give money - [Graeme - NSW]
- Australian Institute of Criminology - [Charlotte - NSW]
- local group run stalls - [Graeme - NSW]
- people who do not want to facilitate could raise money
- trivia night - [Margaret - Qld]
- Corrective Services gave computers away - [Margaret - Qld]
- film nights - can also promote AVP
- running AVP workshops for people who can pay ie. commercial rates - is there a dilemma in this? ie. fee-for-service
- councils can give grants to support community groups - [Malcolm - NSW]

V.2 National Funding:

- National Violence Prevention Awards - [Graeme - NSW]
- Australian Youth Foundation - [Graeme - NSW]
- National Community Volunteer Organisation Awards (big prize \$15,000) - [Graeme - NSW]

V.3 Publicity:

We can do this as a national body eg. inspirational stories that help create a national profile.

Other examples:

- radio interviews etc.
- *put together a little book of Australian transforming power stories facilitators and participants where people have been inspired by AVP - send to Susi (Vic)*
- *inmates and ex-inmates talking about their experiences with AVP could be recorded on tape or in writing. Send these to Susi (Vic)*

V.4 Working Party

The decision was made to form a working party to look at national funding and publicity for AVP Australia in the coming year and report back to the next National Gathering. The members are Charlotte (NSW) Co-ordinator, Susi (Vic), Scott (NSW), James (Vic), Graeme (NSW).

VI.5 NEXT AND FUTURE NATIONAL GATHERINGS

It was decided by the affiliates present that permission would be sought from the Aboriginal Council of Elders for the area in which the National Gathering would be held for all future national gatherings. It was felt that this should be the first task to be addressed in the planning of any national gathering as a sign of respect.

NSW has volunteered to host the National Gathering for the year 2000. Possible dates are 27 April 2000 to 3 May 2000. The proposed location is The Grange, Mt. Victoria.

State groups are requested to give feedback about the suitability of the dates and location by the end of June to Malcolm (NSW). If no feedback is received from an affiliate it will be presumed that the date and location is acceptable by that affiliate.

Year 2001 - The states are also asked to consider hosting the 2001 National Gathering. If the affiliate is interested in being the host they should forward the details to the Care Bears for facilitation.

Further discussion was held on sponsorship relating to the National Gathering. *It was felt that it was appropriate to seek sponsorship so that two people from each affiliate could attend the National Gathering without incurring expense for their affiliate. It was further considered that sponsorship could be sought for disadvantaged groups and for trainers to conduct workshops at the National Gathering. The working group on funding will investigate this.*

VII NATIONAL IDENTITY

Decisions about National Identity are:

The decision was made that the official documentation name of the organisation is AVP Australia but that it could be referred to as AVP-Oz

The national e-groups will be called AVP-A (circulation) and AVP-AL (discussion group).

VIII INTEREST GROUPS:

These were on a personal level and everyone was invited to join them. The primary reason for these groups was an exchange of information and no record was made.